

## **April Newsletter From Executive Councilor Kenney**

*(Representing all the towns and cities in the counties of Coos and Grafton, the unincorporated place of Hale's Location, the towns of Albany, Alton, Andover, Bartlett, Brookfield, Center Harbor, Chatham, Conway, Cornish, Croydon, Danbury, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Gilford, Grantham, Hart's Location, Hill, Jackson, Madison, Meredith, Middleton, Milton, Moultonborough, New Durham, New Hampton, New London, Newport, Ossipee, Plainfield, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Springfield, Sunapee, Tamworth, Tilton, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, Wilmot, and Wolfeboro, and the cities of Claremont and Laconia)*

My first full month on the job as your new Executive Councilor has been a very busy one. On March 26<sup>th</sup> I was sworn in to office in the Executive Council Chambers in Concord and then immediately participated in the Governor and Executive Council meeting that was scheduled that day. On March 29<sup>th</sup> I attended a dinner in honor of our supporters at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods. In the month of April, I attended two Executive Council meetings in Concord at which the Council voted on over 200 contracts and approximately fifty confirmations and nominations for various State Boards and Commissions.

Several citizens at the beginning of the Council meetings were recognized for their achievements and volunteer work within the State of New Hampshire. Additionally, various grammar and high school students throughout the state were recognized for their athletic and academic achievement.

I have fielded dozens and dozens of constituent requests that include food stamps, license plate renewals, economic development support letters for grants, revenue questions and unemployment benefits to name a few. All of my requests are always kept confidential and I try to give constituents the best answer I can and if I don't have an immediate answer I will reach out to the responsible commissioner to work through the problem.

Much of my work is actually done in Executive Council District 1 which includes 108 towns and cities. I have tried to honor all requests to attend events and occasions that required my attendance. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, my first official event was to attend the State of the University Address by President Sara Jayne Steen at Plymouth State University and gather an understanding of the University's direction for the future. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, I took a tour with State Senator Jeanie Forrester and the Department of Resource and Economic Development at the Wallace Building Products Corp. in Danbury to discuss the expansion of their business. On April 24, I attended and spoke to the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce as their guest speaker and found a very active business and academic community in Plymouth.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, I was asked to be a judge for the Tillotson North Country Foundation's Enterprise Scholarship Competition for three teams of Colebrook Academy high school students. It was fantastic and all the students did a superior job in their presentations to the point all received scholarship monies. On the same day, I spoke to the North Woodstock Rotary Club at breakfast about my new position and thoughts on the Executive Council and repeated that performance at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce later that morning. At noon I travelled to the base of Loon Mountain to see a future development of a resort hotel near Jean's Playhouse. April 16<sup>th</sup> was a very busy day.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, I had the pleasure of visiting and touring the North Country Charter School in Littleton overseen by Lise Lavoie. This is one of the original charter schools established in NH and supported by ten other school districts in the North Country. The staff and students were great and I look forward to my return. On the same day, I took a tour of the washed out culvert on River Street in East Conway and the state is working on a Declaration in order to receive FEMA funding.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended a NH Employment Security Job Fair with Commissioner Copadis at the Belknap Mall in Belmont. Close to forty businesses were represented there and I enjoyed speaking with the various job recruiters.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, I had pleasure to visit Franklin High School on its first Annual Military Day to visit Hill students who are being recruited to join the service. Earlier in the month, I spoke to Teen Pact Leadership Schools in Concord, an impressive group of home school students under the direction of Margaret Dryre. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, I was the guest speaker for the New

Hampshire Center for Non-profits in Concord. They represent numerous non-profits across the state and provide great services to citizens on a daily basis. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Granite United Way annual dinner in Berlin, honoring the late Executive Councilor Ray Burton. This organization provides great services in the Northern part of the State.

On April 5th, I ran in the Ammonoosuc Annual 5 miler in Bethlehem in support of Oral Health, an important issue in the State of New Hampshire. Later in the day, I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the start of the Vietnam War at the White Mountain Regional High School in Whitefield, NH. This was a very important event to recognize the service of our Vietnam Veterans and their personal sacrifice to our country.

On April 17th, I attended the Legal Services Forum Breakfast in Concord. This organization provides free legal services for citizens in need and supports the victims of domestic violence. Later in the day, I was able to facilitate a meeting with Littleton Economic Development Group with the Department of Transportation of Commissioner in Concord to review a Tiger Grant proposal for \$8.2 million.

On April 29th, I attended a Prescription Drug Conference at the Common Man Restaurant in Claremont with 70 other citizens to address the prescription drug problem in the State. It was an eye opening experience with a lot of great stakeholders in attendance from the non-profit world, law enforcement and state agencies.

On April 14th, I took a tour of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Emergency Services in Concord with Directors Chris Plummer and Bruce Cheney. We are fortunate in New Hampshire to have a first rate facility to prepare our State for all types of emergencies. On April 8th, I took a tour of the Division of Motor Vehicles with Director Richard Bailey in Concord to see many of the new initiatives in support of customer service.

I also attended a Dinner in Bartlett on April 26th and Senator Forrester's Spaghetti Dinner in North Haverhill on April 30th. I also attended a Troop 198 Eagle Scout Award Ceremony honoring Jordan Dansereau in Wakefield.

There were many calls during the month and emails, please note that my new email address is: [joseph.kenney@nh.gov](mailto:joseph.kenney@nh.gov) and my cell phone number is 581-8780.

Let me know what I can do to help solve your problem.

Sincerely,

Joe Kenney  
Executive Councilor District 1  
Wakefield, NH  
(603) 581-8780